

## **CLAIMS**

What is claimed is:

1. A method of transmitting decryption data, the method comprising the following steps:
  - (a) encoding a bit of decryption data into a pattern of merge bits;
  - (b) encoding channel bits having the pattern of merge bits of step (a); and
  - (c) transmitting the channel bits resulting from step (b).
2. The method of claim 1, further comprising using the decryption data for inhibiting copying of digital information, the method comprising the following additional steps:
  - (d) decoding the channel bits from step (c);
  - (e) decoding the pattern of merge bits in the channel bits of step (d) back into the bit of step (a); and
  - (f) using the decoded bit of step (e) to modify the decoded channel bits of step (d).